



NEW WAVE OF PERSECUTION OF OPPONENTS IN VENEZUELA

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***Unofficial translation**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (Redlad) alert on the arbitrary detention of the metropolitan Mayor of Caracas, Antonio Ledezma and the persecution of Venezuelan opposition leaders after the new accusation of an alleged coup attempt.

The arrest took place on February 19 in an irregular manner and without displaying an order of any court other than the direct order of the President Nicolas Maduro. The service corps of Bolivarian National Intelligence (SEBIN) broke forcibly in his office, handcuffed him and took him to the headquarters The Helicoide where he was denied the communication with his family and lawyers for more than 6 hours.

During the event, the signal of the mass media was hampered to the dissemination of information related to the case, at the same time it was broadcasted a chain in which the President announced the possibility of expropriation to companies that do not follow the requirements of the executive.

It is worth mentioning that last week Maria Corina, Leopoldo Lopez and Antonio Ledezma: published a proposal for a transitional government in Venezuela. This had an almost immediate reaction from the Presidency reporting an alleged coup plan and minutes later became known the names on the list of suspects who are the same of the signatories from the statement of February 11.

The Permanent Secretariat of REDLAD, platform for more than 520 organizations that defend democracy and human rights, Official member of the Civil Society Forum of the OAS (Organization of American States) and Regional Chapter of World Movement for Democracy (WMD):

- Notes the constant harassment of the Venezuelan civil society and opposition members with fails to the first generation rights.
- Alert on the attempted kidnapping of Leopoldo Lopez to transfer him out of military prison Ramo Verde.
- Demands the immediate release of Antonio Ledezma as well as Daniel Ceballos, former mayor of San Cristobal.
- Makes a call to the international community to stay alert on the evolution of this new crisis.

Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Democracia (RedLad).



<http://www.redlad.org/>